



KENNETH A. GIBSON

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

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GIBSON UNVEILS NEW SHELTER FOR HOMELESS IN NEWARK

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson today (Thursday, May 6) unveiled a new shelter at the Newark YMWCA for homeless families.

The new facility, scheduled to begin operation next month, is designed to house 60 persons on the 12th floor of the Y building at 600 Broad St.

The entire floor has been remodeled into small apartments and recreation and dining areas by the City of Newark with \$120,000 from the federal Community Development Block Grant. The facility will be operated by the YMWCA in cooperation with Newark Emergency Services for Families and other social agencies.

"Many people have worked long and hard to make this dream a reality," said Gibson. "This partnership of private and public agencies will enable Newark to respond to one of our most acute social needs."

The Mayor noted that cities around the country report a sharp increase in the number of people who have no place to live. "Until there are some changes of hearts and minds in Washington, this problem may become still more serious," said the Mayor. "The city is not able to solve the problem, but we can help to ease the hurt for some of the innocent victims."

Gibson noted that individual agencies have provided shelters for single adults -- such as male alcoholics and battered women -- but this is the first center designed to house entire families.

Guidelines for the new center set a two-week maximum for anyone to live there. The persons to be housed there will be screened and referred by Newark Emergency Services, the Salvation Army, Red Cross and Essex County Welfare Department.

Day-to-day operation will be handled by the YMWCA, while financial management will be provided by Newark Emergency Services. The nonprofit agency, organized in 1977, handles some 800 cases a month of persons needing housing, food, clothing and social services.

Geraldine Harvey, executive director of Newark Emergency Services, says priority will be given to families displaced by fires, evictions, domestic disputes and lack of building services.

The new facility consists of 13 single rooms, 16 adjoining rooms, four bathrooms, a kitchen, and two community rooms.

The renovation of the top floor of the Y was done as part of Newark's Community Development Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the Mayor's Policy and Development Office (MPDO).

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